

**TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN &
SHEFFIELD MEMBERS OF SBRSD SCHOOL COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 3, 2007
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
6:00 PM**

Board Members Present: Julie M. Hannum, Chairman
James T. Collingwood Sr., Clerk
David D. Macy

School Comm. Members Present: Jack Pollitt
David Steindler
Susan Young
Dek Tillett

Other Staff Present: Joseph A. Kellogg, Town Administrator
Rhonda LaBombard, Assistant Town Administrator

Chairman Hannum called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Discussion ensued regarding an article in the New Marlborough 5 Village News regarding the Department of Education (DOE) takeover of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District (SBRSD).

The SBRSD Superintendent sent a letter to all the SBRSD staff regarding the DOE takeover. The School Committee is not anticipating many changes other than approval for line item budget transfers and the use of grant funds. The School Committee will send a letter to DOE regarding the emergency regulations they issued. The comment period on the regulations ends on December 21, 2007.

Discussion ensued regarding how the District receives payments from the member towns.

Discussion ensued regarding the School Committee Finance Sub-committee scheduling meetings with each of the District towns. Sheffield, New Marlborough and Egremont scheduled separate meetings with the sub-committee. Alford stated that they were fine with whatever the School Committee submitted for a budget. Monterey did not want to meet with the sub-committee and issued a letter stating so. New Marlborough then cancelled their meeting and issued the same letter as Monterey. The letter stated that they would meet with only the full school committee, only discuss the alternative assessment method and only with all five towns present at the same time.

The School Committee stated that they are impressed with the quality of education and the staff involvement.

A meeting will be held on December 10, 2007 with all five towns in the District, at the Mt. Everett School. Jeff Wulfson from the DOE will attend the meeting.

Discussion ensued on the schedule for setting the FY09 District budget. Copies of the schedule were distributed to the Selectmen. The tentative date for the FY09 budget hearing is February 28, 2008.

Discussion ensued regarding the letter from the DOR for certification of the SBRSD Excess and Deficiency.

The School Committee distributed a break down on the number of children in the District and the number attending other districts.

Discussion ensued regarding political messages sent home with children.

The School Committee is currently working on the Superintendent's evaluation.

The Board of Selectmen is encouraged with the Finance Sub-committee's approach to meet with each Town to discuss the budget.

Discussion ensued regarding the use of operating funds for capital improvements, the unsafe condition of two of the school buildings. The School Committee members will further discuss asking the Building Inspector of each town to submit in writing whether or not the buildings in their towns are safe for use.

Chairman Hannum recessed the meeting at 6:45 p.m. and noted the Board would reconvene at 7:00 p.m. for their regular meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Rhonda LaBombard
Assistant Town Administrator